THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

ARBITRARY ARRESTS.

On Monday last Mr. Senator Powell, of Kentucky, introduced into the Senate a resolution requesting the President of the United States to communicate to that bedy all information in his possession bearing on the arrest and imprisonment of Col. Richard T. Jacobs, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kentucky, and Col. Frank Wolford, one of the Presidential electors of that State; particularly by whose order they were arrested and imprisoned, where they are at present confined, and what offences are charged against them.

On the following day (Tuesday) Mr. POWELL called up the resolution for consideration, when Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, urged that priority should be given to a bill, pending in the Senate, which had for its object to secure the freedom of the wives and children of all negroes who have been or may be mustered into the military or naval service of the United States. Mr. Wilson, however, finally waived his objections to the consideration of Mr. Powell's resolution, which was thus brought before the Senate for final action.

Mr. Howard, of Michigan, having objected to the consideration of the resolution on the ground of inquisition to use its power in the enforcement of inquiries into matters which pertain exclusively to the Executive," Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, objected to this view in the following terms:

"The Senator from Kentucky, representing his State, says that two men in that State have been arrested, and he knows not for what they have been arrested. He says that they have been spirited away, and he knows not whither they have been carried. Is it not our duty to make some inquiry in regard to a question of that kind? Are we going to be entirely indifferent to the liberties of the people of this country?

"I am not sent here, Mr. President, for the purpose of sitting with my arms folded in silence and in quiet, and giving no vote in favor of an inquiry of this kind. I have no doubt that when the inquiry shall be pursued properly there will be a perfect vindication of the officers of the Government. I have no sort of question that these men were properly arrested, and after the statements that have been made here by the Senator from Kentucky, I am anxious that his resolution shall be adopted, in order that they may be thoroughly vindicated, and I am satisfied that the inquiry will vindicate them; but if it be otherwise, if these men have been improperly arrested, then it is the duty of the Senate to say so, and to put its seal of reprobation upon those who have thus improperly arrested them.

"Mr. President, I trust that this Senate is not going to sit quietly by, and when charges are made here by the Senator representing a State of arbitrary conduct on the part of any of the officers of this Government, refuse to make any inquiry because it is claimed that to do so would be a proceeding of a quasi judicial character. It is one of the prerogatives of this body to protect the liberties of the people of the States and the rights and interests of the States and the rights are rights and interests of the States and the rights are rights and interests of the States and the rights are rights and interests of the States and the rights are rights.

Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, supported the resolution of inquiry, and instanced similar cases of arbitrary arrests which had come within his knowledge, but which he believed had been undertaken and enforced by military subalterns, without authority of the President, and sometimes without his privity until it was too late to countermand them. In illustration of these statements he said :

result, of these military arrests; and in all cases, as pro-

found within a limited period, they were to be discharged. an anti-slavery direction to the war. "I speak knowingly when I say to the Senate that that law has been altogether disregarded in Maryland, and that it has equally been diere garded within this District. Men without number have been arrested, and have been handed obsolescence, it suggests to its political friends that as already gained. over, not to the civil tribunals for trial, but to military they have a "better chance to gain the public ear commissions, and have been convicted and sentenced to the and to render valuable service to the country" by penitentiary, and are now, some of them, suffering under

those sentences. "These military gentlemen-I speak not of the President of the United States-seem to think that they are under no obligation at all to observe the civil laws; not only not bound to observe the laws of the States where | tude they happen to be located at the time, but not bound to observe the laws of Congress; and they not only assume observe the laws of Congress; and they not only assume turn to our politics as the pressure is more and more felt.

The country already begins to stagger under the burden." they have from time to time, and indeed constantly, convicted upon evidence that would not be received in any court of civil justice in the country.

show the Senate the great extent to which this usurpation | men. A Washington letter says that the War Department of authority has been extended. At the late election in intends that this new requisition shall produce the number Maryland, when the question before the people was whether of men called for. The last call produced but forty per the constitution framed by the Convention who had that cent. of the amount. "Running to Canada and elsewhere subject under their consideration should be adopted by the | was a very large leak in the last endeavor to recruit the people or not, a gentleman of Caroline county, Union army. Plenty of time to do this was allowed. The draftpeople or not, a gentleman of Caroline county, Union from the beginning of this civil strife, and Union still, of fered to vote, and took the oaths prescribed, every one of derstood that a system of passports, to be rigidly enforced parations were completed the order was given, and his them, answered every question propounded to him, but at Detroit, Buffalo, Suspension Bridge, and Sacket's Harwas refused, and he sued the judge of election, as he had a bor, will be invoked to hold men to the sacred duty of fightperfect right to do. The military commander in Baltimore, ing for their country." by some persons immediately in the neighborhood where vote, brought to the city of Baltimore, thrown into prison, and I believe is there still. He was not only thrown into prison and kept in prison, but his friends were not permitted to see him, and have not been permitted, as I be lieve, since to see him. This is one case.

"The last election in our State for members of our Legislature resulted in the choice of a majority of citizens who were called Democrats. There was a majority of two in the Senate of Maryland. One of them, elected from one of our counties, said to be a timid man, was threatened with arrest if he did not resign, and he resigned. But that left a majority still. In the county of Somerset, where a Democrat was elected, receiving a majority of between three and four thousand votes, he re ceived a very polite letter from the General in command, asking him in substance whether he thought it was right that he should take his seat in the Senate of Maryland, as he had raised a rebel flag in April, 1861, upon his own pulverized borax upon the water bugs and cockroaches premises. He replied to it-I have the reply by mealtogether false, asking permission to satisfy the Major ing shelter to these insects, with this effect: that after General that it was falce, saying that he would come up at three or four days quantities of dead ones were found on any moment in order to lay before him the proofs which the floor, and hardly a live one could be found in the house. he said be had to establish the fact of its falsehood. And the reply to the request was a file of soldiers and his arrest; and he was brought to the city of Baltimore, thrown into the most losthsome dungeon, which had formerly been used as a mere slave pen, without bed-clothing to lie upon, and the next day, without investigation and opportunity for defeace, he was sent South by order of the Major

Mr. POWELL. Will the Senator from Maryland allow me to ask who that Major General was ?

Mr. JOHNSON. Major General Wallace. The Presiof it he was told that the order had not been executed. hundred dollars."

He immediately sent a despatch requesting that nothing more should be done, and the answer to the despatch was that the man had been sent South already.

"Now, whether he was guilty of raising the rebel flag in 1861 or not I have no personal knowledge; nor have I any personal knowledge of the gentleman himself; but he is represented to me to be a man of the highest possible character, a man of unimpeached integrity, and whose word would be taken by every body who knows him. I have no doubt that Gen. Wallace has acted under the impression that he was discharging a duty; representations have been made to him upon the faith of which he has acted; but in his desire to perform his duty and to rid Maryland of those whom he supposed were traitors he forgot that every citizen of Maryland has a right to be heard when he is charged with an offence.

"It may be, Mr. President, that upon the ground of military necessity, in the beginning of this dreadful war, aiming as it did at the very life of the nation, these arrests Georgia." The march was feebly resisted. were unavoidable; but thank God it is not so now; thank God it seems now to be approaching its end, and the end will be the restoration of the Union; but let the Senate of the United States, if upon reasons of military necessity they have heretofore refused to interfere, say now that in suppressing the rebellion they mean to preserve the rights of the loyal citizens.

"The case to which I have adverted is now under the examination, as I understand, of the President of the United States, and I have confidence in him as a lawyer and as a humane man, as one willing, to the extent of his knowledge, to maintain the rights of the citizen, and as a man anxious, as much as any other man living, to execute justice in mercy, that he will see that no possible harm shall fall upon a citizen of Maryland without cause."

The resolution, after this discussion, was adopted by the Senate without opposition from any quarter.

FUTURE POLITICAL ISSUES.

The New York World, which, more than any that it proposed to "convert the Senate into a sort other paper of its party, may be regarded as a typical exponent of the present attitude and future tendencies of Democratic opinion, expresses the belief that slavery is in a rapid process of disappearance as an element of political discussion likely to furnish points of difference between loyal citizens. To this effect it says:

"Before another Presidential election the abolition que tion, for example, will probably be in such a state that past ideas will not apply. As the problem advances toward its predetermined solution, we shall see public opinion more and more disposed to acquiesce in the manifest tendency of events. Before the expiration of its new lease of power, the Republican party will have secured a constitutional amendment for the entire extirpation of slavery in the United States. If the South should, meanwhile, gain its independence, slavery can be no longer a question of Federal politics; but if we disarm Southern resistance, the anti-slavery amendment will have been put in force, and have done its work before the Democratic party can be in power. Why should the party bind itself to a dead corpse?

"Unless the Democratic party is blind enough to run the hazard of disintegration, it must distinguish between questions virtually settled and questions that still remain all questions save those which rank as living, vital issues. The number who oppose the abolition of slavery (now a minority) is not likely to grow larger, but to grow less, with the progress of time. Every Democrat can, of course, hold whatever opinion he chooses on that subject. Such opinions are no longer of the slightest political con please: but the subject must be dismissed from the range of topics on which the party is expected to have distinctive bid it to become an abolition party; the progress of events and the tendency of public opinion, as well as the Constitution in the form into which it is certain to be amended, forbid it to commit itself to the fortunes of a moribund

We do not doubt that the World gives counsel with its usual sagacity when it advises the party of which it is a leading organ not to "commit itself to the fortunes of a moribund institution." We do not understand that any loyal upholder of the "Congress passed, some two years ago, I think, an act | Federal Government has ever proposed to "comwhich was intended to put an end, in a measure, to the mit" either himself or the Government to the supprincipal injustice which was the result, and sure to be the port of the "moribund institution" of slavery, vided for by that act, where the parties were not liable to the World calls it, though there are many who military control, the persons charged were to be handed make it a condition of "loyalty" that all who up- railroad, and consumed stores and provisions that were over to the civil tribunals, and, if an indictment was not hold the Federal Government shall join in giving

The political relations of slavery being thus, according to the view of the World, in a process of to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah giving their attention to current and emergent questions connected with the financial policy of the Government. It says :

"A vast debt and a great war are objects of deep solicitude with all thinking men. To pay the interest on the one and to support the other will put upon the resources of the country an increasing strain, which must give a new

THE NEW DRAFT.

We publish in another column the proclamation of the "But I rose more especially to state a case which will President calling for a new levy of three hundred thousand

It seems that this call of the President for three hundred the fact occurred, being informed of it, the gentleman was thousand more men swells the total number called into the arrested, having committed no offence at all unless (if that army, since the commencement of the war, to 3,258,846. be an offence) suing the judge for refusing to receive his | The Journal of Commerce enumerates as follows the sev-

eral calls:	
Raised in 1861, as per report of Secretary Cameron, for three months	77,875
Raised in the same year, as per same report,	
for three years	660,971
Call of July 1st, 1862 (3 years' men)	300,000
Call of August 4th, 1862, for militia (nine	
months' men)	300,000
Call for militia of certain States June 15th,	
1863, to repel invasion of Pennsylvania	120,000
Draft of July, 1863 (3 years' men)	300,000
Number raised since October 17th, as per	
statement of Senator Wilson	700,000
Call of July 18th, 1864 (one year men)	500,000
Last call, December 19, 1864	300,000
Total	3,258,846

At the last meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History a report was made by a member upon the effect of that infest our houses. The experiment was tried by sprinkcourteously, denying the charge, protesting that it was ling it around every crack and crevice suspected of afford

SALTVILLE NOT CAPTURED.

The Richmond Sentinel of Saturday says: "The re ported capture of the salt works is not correct. The last heard of the raiders they were making in the direction of Wytheville. The salt works are considered safe. There is ample force, under the command of a skillful General. in a position to protect the works."

The Boston Post says: "One of our merchants yester terday paid the excise on 700 barrels domestic spirits, which dent was informed of it, and at the time he was informed amounted to the snug little sum of sixty-six thousand three

THE SIEGE OF SAVANNAH. SHERMAN'S OPERATIONS IN GEORGIA-THE

CAPTURE OF FORT MCALLISTER. The Secretary of War announces the receipt of despatches from Gen. Foster, who had a personal

interview on the morning of Wednesday, the 14th instant, with Gen. Sherman, at Fort McAllister, which had been taken by assault on the preceding day. Eavannah was closely besieged, and its capture, with the rebel forces there, was confidently expected. General Foster reports that Sherman's army "is in splendid condition, having lived on its march on turkeys, chickens, sweet potatoes, and other good things of the richest part of troops behaved splendidly, all taking their share in assault-

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Richmond papers of Friday, the 16th instant, state, on the authority of official despatches, that on Wednesday, the 14th, General Sherman carried Fort McAllister, commanding the entrance to the Ogeechee river, by storm, and that the capture of this position puts Sherman in communication with our fleet, and "will necessitate the reinforcement of Savannah."

The Richmond Dispatch says: |" The garrison of the fort consisted of one bundred and fifty men. Fort McA!lister is on the Ogeechee river, fifteen miles southwest of Savannah, at the point where the river is crossed by the Savannah, Albany, and Gulf railroad, and about six miles from Ossabaw Sound. The capture of this position puts Sherman in communication with the Yankee fleet. Without attempting any military criticism, we cannot withhold the opinion that the exposing of one hundred men to the assault of Sherman's whole army was a piece of extravagance that Sherman's present military resources do not seem to warrant."

The Examiner says: "Fort McAllister commands the entrance to the Ogeechee river, and has prevented the enemy heretofore from ascending the river. We believe there are other works further up the stream which would render the navigation of the stream by the enemy extremely uncomfortable. The fall of Fort McAllister does not by any means involve the loss of Savannah, but will necessitate the reinforcement of the troops defending that city."

OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GEN. SHERMAN. HIS POSITION BEFORE SAVANNAH.

The War Department has received an official lespatch from Gen. Sherman, dated near midnight of December 13th, on the gunboat Dandelion, Ossabaw Sound. It was written before Gen. Foster had reached him. He reports, in addition to some details of future operations, the following interesting particulars of his victorious march through Georgia and of his investment of the city of Savannah : ON BOARD DANDELION,

Ossabaw Sound, Dec. 13-11.50 P. M.

To-day at 5 P. M. Gen. Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened to us the Ossabaw Sound, and I pulled down to this gunboat to communicate with the fleet.

Before opening communication we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah river, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee, at King's Bridge.

The army is in splendid order and equal to any thing. The weather has been fine, and supplies abundant. Our skill, and some time elapsed ere our men were got in posinarch was most agreeable, and we were not at all moested by guerrillas

We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister we could not communicate, but now we have Instead of facing to the west they now faced directly McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured south. The Second Corps of Schooled and Smith's corps two boats in the Savannah river and prevented their gunboats from coming down. I estimate the population of Savannah at twenty-five

thousand and the garrison at fifteen thousand, Gen. Hardee We have not lost a wagon in the trip, but have gathered

in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started. with the view to prevent our turning their right flack. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes,

We have utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of essential to Lee's and Hood's armies.

The quick work made with Fort McAllister, and the opening communication with our fleet, and consequent independence for supplies, dissipates all their boasted threats Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

LATEST FROM SAVANNAH.

The transport steamer Fulton, from Port Royal on the 18th, reports that Savannah was still in the hands of the rebels. Its surrender had not been demanded when the Fulton sailed. Major General Slocum's corps holds all the approaches on the north side of Savannah, including all the railroads leading out of the town. Gen. Howard's army connects with his right, and swings around to the Ogeechee river at Fort McAllister.

Gen. Sherman is reported to have secured on his march and brought with him seven thousand able-bodied negroes, twelve hundred head of cattle, and so many horses, mules, and wagons as to seriously embarrass him. His total loss of men, from all causes, during the march, was only about one thousand in both wings of the army. The particulars after volley into our ranks at a distance of twenty-five of the storming of Fort McAllister are thus stated:

"At half-past four o'clock on Wednesday morning Gen gallant division, eager for the fight, marched at a double quick step forward, penetrated the abattis surrounding the work, plunged through the ditch, and scaled the parapets of the fort-ten feet in height-and swarmed into the work under a hot fire, which, while it cut down many, failed check the advance, and the work was ours. Most of the garrison, bewildered by the sudden sweep of our veterans, surrendered in haste, but others stood by their guns and fought until they were bayoneted or cut down. The work was quickly performed, and not an armed rebel remained within the fort three minutes after the parapets were crossed by our seasoned veterans, and the cheer of victory rang out clearly in the misty morning air, and announced success to the eager troops stretching around the doomed city of Savannah. The substantial results of our victory guns and a large quantity of ordnance and subsistence sur plies, and, in a still more substantial way, an open port, through which Gen. Sherman can draw all his needed sup-plies around his men, and can make his investment of Savannah perfectly secure so far as the question of subsist-

Charleston papers to the 15th contain little news, and seem to know but little of the movements of Gen. Sherman. McAllister :

"We have no very full budget of intelligence from Savanuah. Sherman seems, for the present, to have aban-doned the direct attack on the city, and appears to be turn-

ing his attention to the reduction of the outworks.

"We regret to announce the fall of Fort McAllister That post was carried early yesterday morning by assault, in which a heavy column of Sherman's best troops participated. It is believed that the enemy will next make a desperate effort to gain possession of Genesis Point. We have neard no details of the assault or of the casualties.

"Along the line of the Charleston and Savannah railroad nes quiet. The Yankees, while at Gordon, Ga. stated that they would soon enter South Carolins, and that they would not leave a house standing in the State."

The frequent capture, by the Confederates, of supplies sent from Kansas and Missouri to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Fort Scott, Kansas, by the overland route, has elicited an order directing that hereafter supplies shall be forwarded to Fort Smith, and other military posts on the Arkansas frontier, by way of Cairo and Memphis, and sixteen pieces of artillery, two Brigadier Generals and thence by river to the point of destination. One capture about two thousand prisoners. made recently by the Confederates included eleven thousand complete suits of soldiers' clothing.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

A BATTLE AND A VICTORY-HOOD ASSAILED AND DRIVEN FROM HIS WORKS.

announces a successful assault by his forces upon mile of the Brentwood Hill Pass. Hood's army, in front of Nashville, on Thursday

NASHVILLE, DECEMBER 15-9 P. M. "We attacked the enemy's left this morning and drove t from the river below the city, very nearly to the Frankin pike-distance about eight miles. We have captured Chalmer's headquarters and train, and a second train of about twenty wagons, with between eight hundred and a thousand prisoners, and sixteen pieces of artillery. Our ing and carrying the enemy's breastworks. I shall attack the enemy again te-morrow, if he stands to fight; and if he retreats during the night, will pursue him, throwing a heavy cavalry force in his rear to destroy his trains, it GEO. H. THOMAS, Mejor General."

UNOFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

Nashville, (Tenn.) Dec. 15, 1864. The army commenced moving at daybreak to day with Gen. Steedman's Corps on our left, the Fourth Corps next, and then A. J. Smith's Corps. The cavalry force moved to the right and the Twenty-third Corps was held

in reserve.

Very little except reconnoitering was done until after wery little except reconnoctering was code until after meridian, but at half-past twelve o'clock the order to ad-vance was given and the whole column moved onward. The rebels evidently expected that Gen. Thomas would attempt to turn their left flank. All the indications would cause us to suppose this, and they offered numerous induce-ments for us to do so, and had carefully prepared their works to receive our forces if we should attack them in that quarter.

To keep up the delusion Steedman's command was ordered to skirmish heavily on the rebel left flank, and he moved forward in the direction of the point which the ebels believed we were threatening.

While Steedman was manceuvering in this manner, the rebles were massing on their left, and we were concentrating the Sixteenth and Twenty-third Corps and Gen. Wiln's cavalry on our right. The result of this was that when the bugles sounded the advance our right wing advanced rapidly between the left of the rebels and the Cumberland river, completely doub-

ing upon a rebel division which the rebels had posted to blockade the river. A battery was taken here by our forces and sent to the rear. The rebels had by this time perceived that our attack

shed a force on the main bank of the river, and were beyond Franklin steadily advancing.

The whole Twenty-third Corps had taken a position on the extreme right, while Smith's Corps executed a half wheel, driving the columns of rebels before him easily and rapidly. Soon the hill where the rebels were posted was aken, with little loss and less difficulty. In an hour or so he rebels had presented a strong front, and our progress

It was now visible that the contest was about to commence. Another diversion on the left was made to enable our men on the right to get into position and strengthen themselves, so as to be ready for a charge. In front of the Fourth Corps, and about one mile beyond Achlin, the rebels had a strong line of works, defended by a heavy line of skirmishers. Gen. Wood ordered a charge upon it, and he word " forward " was shouted by the division, brigade. and regimental commanders, and with promptness and de cision the men leaped over the breastworks and advanced In less than twenty minutes our forces had possession of the rebel works, and the banners of the Fourth Corps

Our men, flushed with victory, without orders pushed forward and reached the second line of rebel works by the most strenuous exertions and captured some prisoners which, with those taken previously, amounted to over one

The second line of rebel entrenchments were now sight, located on the verge of a hill, one mile from their skirmish line. These entrenchments were built with great

tion to advance upon them.

Our cavalry had advanced meanwhile until its right rested on the hills, six miles beyond Nashville. Moving from the river they could now man course without difficulty were in position directly parallel on the left. The skir-mishers were advanced to the Hillsborough pike, sheltering themselves behind fenceson the north side, while the Fourth Corps was formed at right angles, the front division lying directly across the Hillsborough pike, and the re-mainder being to the left of it.

While these movements were going on, and our lines were forming, and batteries being placed, the rebels could be distinctly seen moving to the left towards Hillsborough As far as could be ascertained the entire rebel reserve was thus thrown in front of our right and centre. In the mean time our commanders sent reinforcements equally strong to our posts menaced by the rebels.

At half-past three all was ready for the charge on the sccond line of the rebel works. The position was a strong one, to reach which our forces had to ascend hills to an elevation of fifteen degrees without any protection; but the lines were four columns deep, with ample reserves. Our forces were massed against the rebel lines, and the veteran commenced. The first and second divisions of the Fourth Corps moved west, and the third division, at right angles with it, moved south. On the right of the Fourth Corps was the corps of A. J. Smith.

The first and second divisions of the Fourth Corps had move in an exposed position to the rebel works in their front, and these works were more formidable and stronger than those elsewhere.

Under a heavy fire of grape, canister, and musketry our nen moved steadily forward; but owing to the rebels firing too high it mostly passed over them—otherwise the slaughter would have been terrible. Some of our men were killed, but the list of casualties were less than ex

After alvancing within one hundred and fifty yards of the rebel works their fire became very severe. Our troops never wavered, but, with a shout along the lines, and ringing along the Hillsborough pike, they again advanced and were almost immediately upon the entrenchments. The distance yet to be passed did not exceed one hundred yards, and reinforcements were in sight coming, yet the rebels evinced no signs of retiring, and discharged volley yards. A few of our men had now reached the works and were using the bayonet, when some of the rebels fled, followed by others, and soon all broke and fled in the wildest confusion. Four 12-pounder Napoleon guns their artillerists furthest. The telegraph is up with me now. at empted to secure, but they only succeeded in getting one of them off the field.

We secured three cannon and two caissons, with a large lot of small arms. We also captured in this charge about

exceed one hundred killed and wounded. Smith's and Echofield's corps had in the mean time advanced balf a mile to the south of the Hillsborough pike capturing there a whole battery of six guns. This makes the total of artillery captured—five guns being taken on the extreme left by the Fifteenth Ohio—smount to eighwounded, lying in the houses by the roadside, unable to get teen guns. Several battle flags were also taken. The rebel loss in killed and wounded is not less than six hunired, while ours is only about three hundred.

The rebels have taken up another line, and may defend to-morrow if they do not retreat to-night.

THE BATTLE RENEWED ON PUIDAY AND THE REBELS DEFEATED AT ALL POINTS.

The following official report of Gen. THOMAS shows that on Friday last he renewed his assault upon the army of Gen. Hood, in front of Nashenemy were broken and driven in all directions, prisoners taken :

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT CUMBERLAND, EIGHT MILES FROM NASHVILLE,

December 16-6 P. M. I have the honor to report that the enemy has been pressed at all points to day in his line of retreat to the Breatwood Hills.

Brig. Gen. Hatch, of Wilson's corps of cavalry, on the right, turned the enemy's left, and captured a large num ber of prisoners-number not yet reported Major Gen. Schofield's corps, next on the left of the

six pieces of artillery. Brevet Major Gen. Smith, next on left of Major Gen Schofield, carried the salient point of the enemy's line with McMillen's brigade of McArthur's division, capturing

Brig. Gen. Garrard's division, of Smith's command, next on the left of McArthur's division, carried the enemy's captured on that day.

entrenchments, capturing all the artillery and troops of the enemy on the line.

Brig. Gen. Wood's troops, on the Franklin pike, took up the assault, carrying the enemy's entrenchments; in his retreat captured eight pieces of artillery, something over The following official despatch from Gen. Thomas, six hundred prisoners, and drove the enemy within one

Major Gen. Steadman, commanding detachments of the different armies of the Military Division of the Mississippi, most nobly supported Gen. Wood's left, and bore a most honorable part in the operations of the day.

I have ordered the pursuit to be continued in the morn ing at daylight, although the troops are very much fatigued. The utmost enthusiasm prevails.

I must not forget to report the operations of Brig. Gen. Johnson in successfully driving the enemy, with the co-Brig. Gen. Croxton's brigade in covering and returning our right and rear. Although I have no report of the number of prisoners captured by Johnson's and Croxton's commands, I know they have made a large number.

I am glad to be able to state that the number of prison ers captured yesterday greatly exceeds the number reported by telegraph last evening. The woods, fields, and abandoned in their retreat.

In conclusion, I am happy to state that all this has been effected with but a very small loss to us. Our loss does not exceed three thousand, and very few killed.

GEO H. THOMAS, Major General.

THE ROUT AND PURSUIT OF HOOD'S ARMY-MORE GUNS AND PRISONERS CAPTURED.

The following extracts from late official despatches of Gen. Thomas have been published by the Secretary of War :

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND. Near Franklin, (Tenn.) December 17, 1864. A report just reached me from Major Gen. Wilson states that at six o'clock P. M. to-day he attacked and dispersed Stevenson's division of rebel infantry, and a brigade of cavalry, capturing three guns. The Fourth United States Cavalry, Hatch's division of cavalry, supported by Knipe's division of cavalry, did the work, making severa beautiful charges, breaking the rebel infantry in all direc tions. Had it only been light, the rebel rear-guard would have been entirely destroyed. As it is, it has been severely on the right was a feint, and Hood soon attempted to atone punished. The whole army will continue the vigorous for his mistake, but he was too late, as our right had estabpunished. The whole army will continue the vigorous

GEORGE H. THOMAS, Major General. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CUMBERLAND

Near Franklin, (Tenn.) December 17-8 P. M. We have pressed the enemy to-day beyond Franklin capturing his hospitals, containing over fifteen hundred of his wounded and about one hundred and fifty of our wounded. In addition to the above, Gen. Knipe, commanding a division of cavalry, drove the enemy's rear guard through Franklin to day, capturing about two hundred and fifty prisoners and five battle flage, with very little loss on our side. Citizens of Franklin represent Hood's army as completely demoralized.

In addition to the captures on yesterday, reported in my despatch last night, I have the honor to report the capture of Gen. Rucker and about two hundred and fifty prisoners of the enemy's cavalry, in a fight that occurred last night between Gen. Rucker and Gen. Hatch, of our

The enemy has been pressed to day, both in front and on both flanks. Brig. Gen. Johnson succeeded in striking him on the flank just beyond Franklin, capturing quite a number of prisoners-number not yet given. My cavalry is pressing him closely, and I am very much in hopes of getting many more prisoners to-morrow.

GEORGE H. THOMAS, Major General.

GEN. THOMAS STILL PURSUING THE ENEMY. A FEW MORE PRISONERS.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTM'T OF THE CUMBERLAND,

The enemy has been vigorously pursued to-day, but has studiously avoided any attack by my troops. I have succeeded in taking a few prisoners-some two or three hurdred-but our captures are light in comparison with the success of the past three days. The pursuit will be continued in the morning at as early an hour as the troops

The following copies of orders found in Breckinridge's camp in East Tennessee are transmitted for your infor-

Headquarters West Virginia and East Tennessee.

Wytheville, (Fa) December 2, 1864. General Orders No. 27.—In accordance with instructions received from the Ordnance Department at Richmond columns were hurled against the rebels with irresistible that it has become of vital importance to husband small force, and at ten minutes before five P. M. the charge arms, ammunition, and lead, the following order is put-

All lead which can be gleaned from battle-fields, or otherwise obtained, will be collected by the br gade ordnance officers and he sent to the nearest arsenal. All arms to be The first and second divisions of the Fourth Corps had the hardest part of the task to perform. They had to drawn, if practicable, otherwise the loads should be discharged into boxes of sand or dirt, so that the lead may be recovered and turned into the ordnance depot.

The attention of the commanding officers is called to the necessity giving rise to this order, and its rigid enforcement is strictly enjoined by commanding officers.

By command of Major General BRECKINGIDGE J. STODDARD JOHNSON, A. A. G.

Headq'rs Department West Virginia and East Tennessee Wytherille, (Va.) December 2, 1864.
CIRCULAR —The attention of commanding officers is called to the scarcity of forage in this department, and the absolute necessity of using economy in its consumption. Evidences of waste have been observed heretofore. The proper efficers must in all cases superintend the issue of forage, and commanding officers and every company officer must give his strict personal attention

I have found the railroad thus far but little disturbed and my trains will be up by railroad in a day or two at the

I find upon receiving more correct reports of the opera tions of the 16th instant, that Maj. Gen. Ed. Johnson's entire division, with all the brigade commanders, was capfour hundred prisoners. Our losses in this charge did not tured in the works which were captured by assault, besides destroying a brigade of the enemy's cavalry and cap-

> Among the captures made to day are the rebel Brig. GEO. H. THOMAS,

Major General Commanding.

T. H. MYERS, A. A. G.

FROM NASHVILLE.

turing its commander, Brig. Gen. Rucker.

NASHVILLE, DEC. 20 .- An officer of Gen. Rousseau's staff, direct from the headquarters of Gen. Thomas, arrived here last night. Our forces were then at Spring Hill, near Columbia. Hord's army, the remnant of it, was at Duck river, which it was crossing as fast as possible. All our wounded left at Franklin were recovered. We also captured there numbers of rebels, severely wounded, in-We extract the following referring to the capture of Fort ville, with complete success. The lines of the cluding Gep. Quarles, of Tennessee, formerly Supervisor of the Banks of this State. Yesterday morning General and a large portion of his artillery and a number of Hatch captured three guns from the rebel cavalry force at Spring Hill. Our total captures of artillery from Hood amount to sixty-one pieces. The loss of Forrest in his attack on Murfreesboro on Thursday last is estimated at fifteen bundred killed and wounded, who fell into our hands. The rebel army, from all accounts, has become utterly demoralized, is utterly unable to make a stand, and has scarcely any artillery left. The telegraph is working to Spring Hill. Trains will run to Franklin this morning. Gen. Schofield was in Columbia yesterday morning. Our total loss in wounded in the battles of Thursday and Fr. day will reach but little over two thousand men. The river is rising rapidly, and there are fifteen feet of water on the Shoals.

Fear river than a few miles above the principal forts at the entrance. If this be the case, the "terpodo corps" will have their labor for naught. cavalry, carried several hills, captured many prisoners, and

> It is announced that the Government yesterday received official despatches from Geo. Thomas which state that Hood's army continued to retreat and was scattering. Gen. Thomas says that the storm of Tuesday, the 20th, was so severe as to impede military operations. It seems, nevertheless, that thirteen hundred additional prisoners were

EXPEDITION FOR WILMINGTON.

The day is so near when intelligence may be expected from the fleet which left Fortress Monroe on Tuesday of last week for Wilmington, (N. C.) that the following table of divisions, ships, and guns will be valuable. The fleet consists of seventy-four sail, carrying six hundred and sixty-six guns, under the command of Admiral DAVID D. PORTER, supported by Commodores Radford, Thatcher, Lanman, Schenck, and Godon, with six hospital tugs, seven hospital ships, and seven ordinary tugs. The following is the fleet order:

reming to san more order.	
Nint dinining Ships	Guis.
First division	164
Third division12	160
Fourth division17	120
Iron-clad division 6	30
66	649
Flagship 1	
T- 6	653
Tugs for general service 7	(each 2 guns) 14
74	666
The Mark of the second	

The New York Evening Post of Tuesday has an interesting article relative to the preparation and strength of entrenchments are strewn with the enemy's small arms | the fleet, the plan of attack upon Wilmington, and the rebel defences, from which we extract the following :

ORGANIZATION OF THE FLEET. Preparations for the capture of the forts defending the entrance to Cape Fear river have been in progress for months, but not until about the first of September were

the efficers assigned, and measures taken to carry the desired plans into execution. About that time Adm ter was directed to assume command of the North Atlan-tic Blockading Squadron, and he at ones commenced to

put his squadron in order.

The first step taken was in perfecting the iron-clad fleet, which was done as speedily as possible, and the result has produced the Dictator, one of the largest vessels of her class in the navy; the Atlanta, one of the best productions of rebel ingenuity; the New Ironsides, which has never seen found wanting; the Monadnock, which was deemed so valuable a vessel that she was at once selected as the flagship of the squadron, and other iron-clads, which will e of great service in carrying out the plans. Among the wooden vessels selected were the Wabash, which was Admiral Dupont's flagship at the capture of Port Hoyal; the Minnesota, of Monitor and Merrimack renown; the Colorado, the chief among the fifty gun acrew frigates; the Brooklyn, of New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile fame. The fleet numbered, all told, sixty-six vessels, and six hundred and forty-nine guns. Quite a large number of the vessels are blockade-runners, purchased by the Government, and converted into gunboais. The choice of these ships was wise, inasmuch as they are of light draught, and capable of easily threading the intricate channels

which constitute the approach to the Cape Fear river. PLAN OF ATTACK

The general plan of attack was decided upon a short ime after Admiral Porter assumed command of the first It was decided that the heavy vessels, which, by reason of their draught of water, could not cross the bar, should lie off within a distance of two miles and actively shell Fort Fisher, which commands the entrance over New Inlet bar. The vessels not participating in the general bombardment are to pass up the channel and over the bar into the river. It is thought that some vessels may be lost or so badly disabled as to render them incapable of offensive action, but the number of the fleet employed will prevent any disaster from such an accident. The sides of the wooden vessels are plated with chain

armor, as were Admiral Farragut's fleet when they passed Forts Jackson and St. Phillip, and Forts Morgan and Gaines in Mobile Bay. The same precaution of lashing the vessels side by side will be reserted to if circumstances will permit. While the fleet rendezvoused at Hampton Roads the yards, topmasts, and extra spars were sent down; boats removed from the decks, and the vessels cleared for action in the most thorough manner. Bags filled with sand were placed on the most vulnerable parts of the decks, and in places to protect the boilers and machinery. In fact every thing that human ingenuity could devise has been done to make the vessels shot and shell proof.

Hospital ships are provided for the accommodation of six hundred wounded, and an extra corps of surgeons was assigned to the squadron. Seven hospital steamers and a number of tugs were thus detailed, under the direction of Fleet Surgeon Fox, and every measure adopted to give proper care and attention to the wounded in the action

THE POINT OF ATTACK.

Wilmington stands on the left bank of the Cape Fear iver, thirty-five miles from the ccean. It has been a port of the utmost value to the rebels since the breaking out of the war, and after the capture of Mobile and the closing of the ports of Charleston and Savannah, has been the principai port of entry. The mouth of Cape Fear river is so situated that it has been most difficult to blockade success fally; notwithstanding the vigilacce of our blockaders large numbers of vessels have passed in and out of the port unseen. The trade of this port has been immense, and is estimated at many millions of dollars. The Navy Department have maintained the most perfect blockade possible stance exceeding twen been able to prevent the rabels from running their ships in and out on favorable occasions. Now, however, Admiral Porter will effectually seal it as hermetically as Mobile is

sealed by the victories of Farragut.

The entrance to Cape Fear river is obstructed by three bars, known as the "Western," "Main," and "New Inlet" bars. So materially have these bars changed from time to time that the old sailing directions would be almost use: less at present for piloting purposes. Still the main fea-tures of the channel have not changed, so that a fleet, guided by even the old landmarks, could gain an entrance. The New Inlet passage affords the best facilities for entrance, and will probably be used by Admiral Porter for his main operations.

THE REBEL FORTIFICATIONS.

On Federal Point is located the celebrated Fort Fisher ne of the largest earthworks of its style in the Confederacy. Its armament is unequalled in range or efficiency. It mounts about fifty guns, many of the heaviest Blakely rifler: near it are a number of small works, called water batteries, all mounting guns of heavy calibre. Similar works exist opposite Fort Fisher, the guns of which min-gle their fire with that of the fort. Together these works mound a distance of six miles three in each direction There is a formidable earthwork a little further up the coast, near the lighthouse, the guns of which cover the seaward approach to the New Inlet bar entrance, Near Fort Fisher a battery, placed upon an artificial sand hill, threatens much annoyance to our fleet. Its guns are able o throw plunging shot, as well as projectiles, far out sea ward.

The entrance by the way of New Inlet is so situated and guarded by heavy artiflery that vessels attempting to go in or run by the forts would be subjected to a tremendous cross-fire. The heavy trigates, whose draught of water precludes their crossing the bar, must of necessity anchor outside or sail up and down the beach; or perhaps they will sail in a cycle as did Dupont's fleet at the capture of Port Royal By this method they would be enabled to keep their guns cool, the men fresh, and at the same time eriously interfere with the accuracy of the rebal fire. The ground over which the beavy vessels must fight is a trifle ver two miles from Fort Fisher, yet it is within effective range at a moderate elevation of the guns. On Zeek's Island, and opposite Fort Fisher, there is said to exist a small water battery mounting nine guns.

THE WESTERN BAR ENTRANCE.

The entrance by the western bar is also well guarded, and its approaches are defended in the most approved manner known to ergineering science. The first works to be encountered going in this way are situated on Oak Island, near the light-houses. It is not generally known how many gons are in position there, but undoubtedly there is a sufficient number to do our fleet much damage before they can be sileuced or passed. On Bald Head, the southern extremity of Smith's Island, is situated a small work. whose guns throw their missiles across the channel. Next omes Fort Caswell, built by the United States before the war. It is a work with five sides, three of them mounting gune, about sixty all told. This work has been strength-ened recently, and is undoubtedly a very formidable affair. Possibly the iron-clads may operate against this work. Just above Fort Caswell is a small work, located on Battery Island. On the right hand side of the river, coming down, is Fort Johnson, situated at Smithville, and about one and a half miles from Fort Caswell. Above this, at various points on the river, are said to be batteries of various sizes, but mostly small and of little importance.

THE OESTRUCTIONS.

The rebels did not place any obstructions in the river until they found out through deserters that we were about to attack Wilmington; hence but little if any thing is known of that part of their defences. Doubtless torpedoes, stoken vessels, and other impedimenta have been by this time placed in the best possible positions to do harm.
It is possible that Admiral Porter will be content with the capture of the seaward defences of Wilmington, without attempting to pass up to the city itself, in which case he will have no occasion to penetrate further up the Cape

The demand of the Brazilian Government for reparation for the seizure of the Florida is understood to have been insolent in tone. The reply of the Secretary of State. which is just completed, is firm, yet conciliatory; not endorsing the seizure, and expressing a desire to have the

matter fairly adjusted.

operation of the gunboats under Lieutenant Commander Fitch, from their established batteries on the Cumberland river, below the city of Nashville, and of the success of